

An Essay
on
Conception.

Among the various subjects of Medical science, which for centuries past, have engaged the attention of man, none has excited more his interest & curiosity, than that of animal conception or fecundation. And probably no subject in the physical world, has caused more ingenious hypothetical speculations, than that which is the theme of the present dissertation. I say hypothetical speculations, for to use the words of the famous Sydenham, "all beyond a certain sphere on this subject must be conjecture." But conjecture here as well as on other abstruse subjects is not only admissible, but even commendable. This however is not again to be founded upon conjecture, but of possible to be deduced from facts & experiments; from experiments not incompletely or partially made, but from those performed by a hand conducted with all imaginable,

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sively & attention. But unfortunately, experiments can
not possibly made, to construct us for on this theory
path, interspersed with roses; & for this deficiency we
are willingly led to embrace conjectures.

These difficulties however which have around this glo-
omy subject should not in the least intercept our experi-
mental enquiry, & if, any one should say its want of
practical utility, should render it less worthy the object of
our attention, I would only reply to such an objection, that
the practical use of our facts can be ascertained, until
the fact itself be known. This then instead of becoming a
barrier, should indeed become a stimulus to our exertions.
On the subject now before us, a vast deal still remains to
be learned, & when I say it is a physiological point wor-
thy of meditation, I say it without any apprehension of
contradiction; for all the faculties & operations of the
body, nay even life itself must be traced back to that
period when from a rude, lifeless & chaotic mass, was
breathed into existence one of the greatest & most choice

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productions of nature. These considerations must & even
will excite the admiration of the lovers of physiology
& philosophy & render it a subject worthy of their
examination. It is not to be expected however, (but
my love for the subject be ever so great) that my
weak pen, conducted by so feeble a hand, should shed
much light on the matter now under consideration, espe-
cially when we reflect that the labours productions of
the ingenious & the great have still left it to be considered
as one of the Arcana of nature.

I intend in the prosecution of this essay, first, to say
a few words on the anatomy & physiology of some of
the female parts of generation, then in the second place
consider some of the latest & most predominant theories
of conception & in the third & last place with diffidence
offer my own ideas on that subject, as shown from reasoning
& observation. I shall in the whole consult as much as I can
as well say ways be consistent with the object of the paper
I am thus agreeing to the order proposed, in the first
place, to say a few words on the anatomy & Physiology of

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Some of the female parts concerned in this important process.
The first thing here, which would appear naturally to
engage our attention is the Uterus. This viscus seems to
perform the most important part in the operation of re-
production. The Uterus is a hollow muscle situated in the
cavity of the pelvis, between the bladder & the rectum,
& held in that position principally by means of four
ligaments, called lata & rotunda. It has been compared
in its unimpregnated state, to a pear somewhat flattened
before & behind, with what is called its neck, lying most
inferior & terminating in what is called the vaginal orifice
an open mouth. The Uterus is of considerable thickness
(varying however in different ages) & endowed, of course,
with no little of that power inherent in muscles, deno-
minated by physiologists contractility. This viscus has
received several divisions, as, body, fundus, neck, & angles.
The two parts denominated (but I think improperly) the
superior angles, are perforated by two ducts, which will
each admit a finger but neither. These ducts are the Sal-

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again tubes of Anatomists. They are two conical tubes
 with their apices turned towards the uterus & termina-
 ting in the other extremities by fimbriae or fringes.
 These ducts run through the ligamenta lata which
 are duplicatures of the peritoneum, & while some of these
 fimbriae lie loose in the cavity of the pelvis, others come
 in contact & are firmly attached to two bodies denomi-
 nated the ovaria. The last mentioned bodies are of white-
 ish appearance & oval shape & situated on each side
 of the fundus of the uterus. They are connected to the
 uterus by a kind of short ligament & the ligamentum
 latum on each side. These bodies are placed between
 the lamina of the ligamenta lata. They are composed of
 several little holes or punctations which I denomi-
 nated from their shape & supposed function the ova. The
 number of these ova, are different according to different
 anatomists, but the truth of the matter is that this
 vary in different women & in the same woman at dif-
 ferent times. Conception always diminishes the number,

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from this circumstance the fluids of the ovum
very justly supposed, to be the rudiments of foetus.

The vagina the last genital part, upon which I
have any thing to observe is a canal leading down
from the neck of the uterus to the opening in the
external coat of generation which receives the
menstrual blood. This canal now is considered as
musculo membraneous & divided between the sections
& addressed above & between the urethra & rectum
below. In the young virgin the 2 partitions in
the female a kind of partial partition is made between
the internal & external coats of generation, by a circular
membrane called by anatomists the hymen. This
however begins to diminish as the subject advances
in years for the transference of menstrual blood from
the uterus to the admission of the seminal fluid
to the uterus.

At this period of the female life, anatomical
by medical men publicly considered changes take
place in this delicate system by which various

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as well as more inconspicuous scholars of the class, as the
 wife of one was said to act as a sort of a mother to the
 whole group in the same line. Another made no known
 mark, but she was - there can be no accuracy of the
 record having no name put up against her name. Since
 the close of the day, about 10:30, the rain began to fall,
 the more voluminous convective, I am inclined to think
 the advocates of the American flag, as rather to be
 known to me, but in the rain, I could not make out
 a discussion of the subject, nor proceeding to the point
 but I think that the little group must have been
 a bit divided in opinion in the rain & the rain was
 quite early in the night of the 1st of June, the rain
 a repetition, however, in the morning. I am inclined to think
 it is possible that the whole matter was the subject
 given in answer to its own point, but that it is a point
 would be its own point, but that it is a point
 with it, however, in the little group, the whole
 when we consider that it would have been a point
 the thing is done out with the conviction, but as
 in the present case, the 1st of June, the whole
 of the 1st of June, it is a long time, but not with
 that, but not across the whole group, the 1st of June
 The whole was the subject of the 1st of June, the 1st of June.

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To be concluded that foliuses present in the male, because
having some more disordered in the female, is concluded
that virginia & many other things are not present in the
male foliuses for virginia & other things support the pre-
sence of virginia in the female. This argument then of Dr. Puccini
which instead of establishing the female the male, rather
denies it from the same table accounts as at the same
time with a better example of his sole distinction the
male because the female is of virginia to the male
virginia alone. To be concluded from the same
of virginia have become a most shadow
of ambiguity, that in the female occurs in the male
to have the analogy not made evident that the same
note of virginia was found in the female of a virginia
from virginia with more than virginia which might be
made, as the sole support of virginia the male, as
to be in the mind of the female of the female.

To be concluded that virginia, however, is not in
the female, but not in the male, is not in the
of virginia to find in the female of a virginia;
as not in the female, as not in the male.
But the chemical solution which for a long time has
been a claim both of the female & male is considered in the female.

(Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible due to fading.)

is not to rest of an action. If so, however the
can be no. Vagaries with some of these actions
and to exercise the judgment with a suitable action.
And now I should a consideration of all this con-
sider the intention that some would not wish to
be limited to the use of a large volume, but I should
just myself conclusions in relation to the text. can we
be made not into all the time which the notes of the
author would require to explain. I should include
but in not involved in a table with the form which
be more own actions. I could not be easily calculated.
I should therefore in the point as. almost the same
time to have a the latest I must regard it as
actions. The first of these is which our attention
to be restricted. The theme of the action. The
actions & varieties of the time are divided into
two parts; the one of which is which there is a
direct communication between the origin & source, to
and destination. The first of these being observed
from the origin is which is the source only the

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the medium of the great circulation. This precaution²
of stagnation altho' its progress is slow & it is the
great in which it is built many & possible parts
is rendered somewhat ambiguous from many other
it will however facts & observations. But how the
one passage is not an argument for the 2^d a return
in this case? Yes he is. I said I have again & say
venture to offer a single objection against an argu-
ment to doubt its accuracy. Yes, I am not only
substantiated, I² to, but what is still better, I am
stimulated to it by the very observation is possible at
it is as if he saying "that I am happy to see the Natl.
sanitized with the reason of a revolution in the
know of a laborer movement. The first argument in sup-
port of this doctrine is that mechanical laborers take
ground upon education, where the cavities of the globe
can take been completely at home; this we do
not pretend to deny a doubt for we know it to be
in fact; but our conclusion is that a fundamental

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I must state that the membrane called the amnion
does not form a complete partition between the embryo
and the surrounding medium; but that there is a hole or
opening in the middle through which a current of fluid
must pass. Not only so, but a current
of air must pass over the surface of the embryo, more or less, in
order that there is not the least suffocation in the uterus;
and it may be said that this was never done
in nature. I can assure you that it is a well known
fact that membranes are in the dissolved & aqueous state,
and that the embryo is in the same state when it is born.
I can assure you that the blood is in the same state when it is
born, and that the lungs are in the same state when they are
born. And when we consider the use of the placenta,
which must be used to the embryo at the time of birth,
it is thus manifest that the nature of the maternal embrace
is such as to conclude that the "maternal" case
is not a case of confinement, & that there is no
perfect union between the embryo and the mother
in the uterus, as the embryo is not born thus absorbed.

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The arguments in fact are: Has medicine any power?
Can we cure the disease by a cure in the blood?
Can we cure the disease by a cure in the blood?
Can we cure the disease by a cure in the blood?

The other subject is the same as the first, but the
language is different, and the style is more elegant and
polished. The subject is the same, but the language is
different, and the style is more elegant and polished.
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the concept, but because, in the first place, it is
so far from being made in one motion. The Whigs were not
so slow to the first to make when I came to them not
in one motion, but that curious accident we call conversion.
But I do not know what to say upon this point. I think
in the first place, we must understand, that we must reach
the idea of the Christian Value, & I suppose it is
not just to give a summary account in contradiction thereto.
The last sentence which I wrote in the first place, is that
the first part of the course is to be given to the answer.
The second part the indication of the Value of the Value
which is to be given in the second course. Third.
The third part of the course is to be given in the second
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I recorded in the Manus the description of the present
form of the people.

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seventy-second was placed in the same manner. The seventy-third
was placed in the same manner. The seventy-fourth was placed in the
same manner. The seventy-fifth was placed in the same manner.
The seventy-sixth was placed in the same manner. The seventy-seventh
was placed in the same manner. The seventy-eighth was placed in the
same manner. The seventy-ninth was placed in the same manner.
The eightieth was placed in the same manner. The eighty-first was
placed in the same manner. The eighty-second was placed in the same
manner. The eighty-third was placed in the same manner. The
eighty-fourth was placed in the same manner. The eighty-fifth was
placed in the same manner. The eighty-sixth was placed in the same
manner. The eighty-seventh was placed in the same manner. The
eighty-eighth was placed in the same manner. The eighty-ninth was
placed in the same manner. The ninetieth was placed in the same
manner. The ninety-first was placed in the same manner. The
ninety-second was placed in the same manner. The ninety-third was
placed in the same manner. The ninety-fourth was placed in the same
manner. The ninety-fifth was placed in the same manner. The
ninety-sixth was placed in the same manner. The ninety-seventh was
placed in the same manner. The ninety-eighth was placed in the same
manner. The ninety-ninth was placed in the same manner. The
hundredth was placed in the same manner.

[illegible]

presence of the people, when the latter have an object
in view, under circumstances.

We had, however, vision, we laid down 94 rates very
much on the one immediately accessible; N^o 1 we about
a one we could be successfully led to the other in
other.

The fourth thing is the demonstrated, is the manner in
which the vote was manifested; this is the point on which
the dissection is to be made. It is necessary for the
issue to be in contact with the voters. Was it so here
does it answer? Look at the question. How should
it be in the question, & it now remains for me
to answer it one of the answers which now influences
me is the answer. In a postscript, the letter
of Calangini has been of no importance, that is the gen-
eralization of the vote is given that the answer since we
are not required to be in contact with them, & from this
we may infer that the answer may be a vote in a
very immediate. It is true a more that the, since

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does come in contact with the mucous membrane, & that it is
 caused to flow by means of the uterine tubes, because the de-
 velopment of women who have died in the act of delivery, from
 Puer & Pelvician tubes situated with the ovary. There is this
 an enormous hole in the vagina & the uterus & it is evident
 a great quantity is excreted at the time of delivery. I
 did not proceed Dr. Smith, as it is difficult to do, but
 would be put the first in the list of improvement. As regards
 the accomplishment of the work, the first young woman
 compares her. Having more, an enormous blood. Abdomen
 muscles, and sometimes want time even for the fallow
 tubes. In some, as several, there is about a half an inch
 from the first, the middle, without disturbing it. It
 is not with the ovary. The external would be
 gentle, the way again excreted into the compound
 ducts, to make. The women, especially, was not so
 because as in the last described in the operations
 as after she frequently received the entrance of the
 fluid, yet the person often proved completely sterile.

fine green
 to green
 white & red
 low - long
 yellowish
 round
 from ice
 black &
 . small
 by insects
 black & red
 black &
 white &
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 brought sea
 quality
 with a r. mass
 L. v. Dine g.
 W. mass & over

is not a solitary case is proved. In the first
line Professor by Doctor Rice from the year 1793 to
the present and with the same result. Then very
interesting evidence of Doctor Rice with I am sure
has very great influence on the minds of every un-
prejudiced person. But what is there especially
more? Dr. Rice not from Phila. has been most
in contact with the same is conceived as
that it is caused to them by the Philadelphia
School they do for a connection in Philadelphia
by double action and in evidence, the case here
shows that the same is such as of the Phila-
delphia. So has completely an extraordinary influence
on the same. The same is the result - The same is the result
is the same by definition - Again if it was
brought near by sympathy, could it not have taken place
equally with similar circumstances? My Example is
such as was not seen both cases of an epidemic which might
have been of this, namely that the sympathy between the
Philas & various was continuous & has called out a portion of

[illegible]

the tubes are both sides the medium of connection between them
& thereby prevented the spontaneous secretion of the serum necessary
for the emulsification. But, as it is evident in the first experiment
in this objection is answered by using his experiments, but not
modified. This was effected by taking a fine ligature near the
gastro-intestinal tubes & inserting an incision into them, by which
passes a solution which entirely destroys the contents of these
tubes & renders the animals as in the former experiments, even
in the death. While this is done, the same that prevents the
albumen, could not be done, & is just in action, for if it could it
would have been accomplished in those cases in the previous
medium is remaining, even after removal. It is true that there
are no more alterations, as appears in the gastro-intestinal tubes as
above, but this is coming the serum to the outside, & the emulsi-
fication occurs in the solution; but this is no more than what
is described in previous & refers to every part of the subsequent
system. If the serum taken into the gastro-intestinal tubes be expelled
into the solution? Is it thrown into them by the same tube as the
albumen into violent contractions?

The last thing to which I would wish to call your attention
is that the unimpregnated serum is taken up by the gastro-intestinal

[illegible]

deposited in the uterus, thus to receive its future nourishment &
another, I am induced to believe this first, from gestations being
sometimes found in the tubes themselves; second, that it is so, we infer
from the progress of eggs in blood, down to the uterus by these tubes.
Third, that if the foetus is found in one horn & the other is empty, & the crown
in the os uteri & is then found in the uterus, then it must follow
a *reciprocate rui*, that it must have passed thro' these tubes
since then is no other avenue thro' which it could have passed.
That the foetus thus conveyed into the uterus, & the revision its
marrow from the mother is acknowledged by all. But the
manner in which this performance has not been satisfactorily
demonstrated by any man. Is it from real inhibition of the
uterine artery, or is it from superficial obstructions of the
arteries? Does the gradual diminution of the liquor render
one of these opinions probable? Or is this diminution of the
arteries caused on by the venutical chord, or is it by the
chord & each of these modes in conception? These interrogatories
may leave to refer to the candid reader himself for an answer.
I spent myself in comparison to the task. With these
few remarks I submit with quite sufficient trust
that I am perfect essay, to the examination of my beloved
Professors, from ^{John} I with grateful acknowledgments I have received
greater part of a hundred on this & all other medical subjects.
Charles W. Allen.

Handwritten text, likely a letter or manuscript page, written in cursive script. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. The page is aged and shows signs of wear, including discoloration and small stains.

An inaugural Dissertation
on Conception

by John H. Quinn

1844.

